

Washington, DC – Today, Congressman Earl Blumenauer (OR-03) issued the following statement today regarding the prospect of a government shutdown:

“Democrats have been negotiating in good faith to prevent a damaging government shutdown. As negotiations have gone forward, it is clear that the difference between the two parties over government spending is now very small. Democrats have already agreed to more spending cuts than Republicans initially demanded. Yet it seems no offer from Democrats is too reasonable to refuse.

“It is clear that my Republican colleagues are not as interested in reducing spending as they are in advancing an extreme agenda. Indeed, Republicans appear willing to shut down the government because they want to dictate their ideology regarding women’s health issues and environmental protections.

“Economists are watching this process with horror, warning of 800,000 furloughed workers, the strangling of essential services and the risk of throwing away our hard-earned progress on the economy. I was contacted this week by a local company that has a \$20 million contract with the U.S. Navy that is in jeopardy because of the shutdown and the uncertainty regarding federal funding. If it were not for the uncertainty coming out of Washington, this contract would be putting Oregonians to work and providing critical family wage jobs. Yet it seems that painful consequences like this are not enough to stop the Tea Party push for a government shutdown.

“It is time for members of both parties to come together like adults and keep our country open for business. Should a shutdown occur, my offices will remain open to serve the constituents of the Third Congressional District, and I will donate any salary that I earn to charity.”